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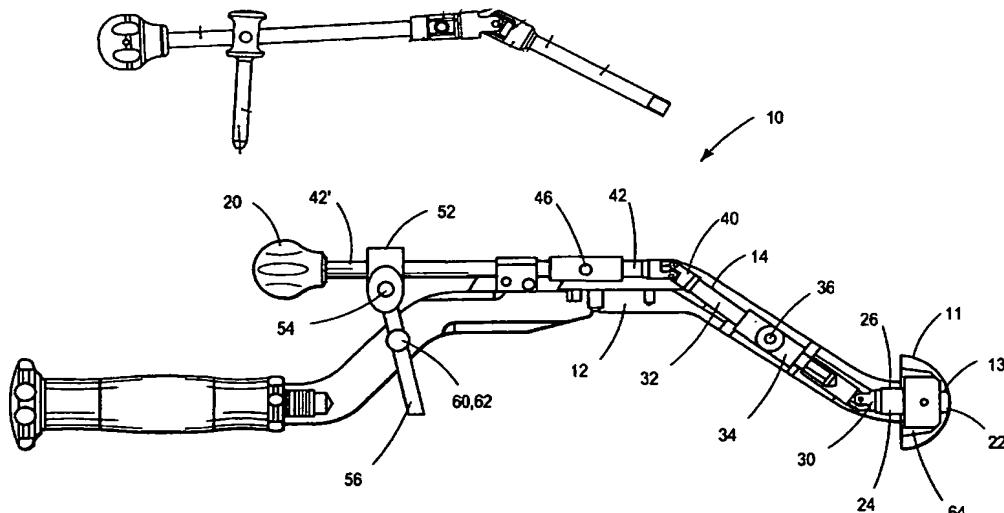
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(54) Title: INSERTER FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE JOINT SURGERY



(57) Abstract: An acetabular inserter (10, 10', 10'') aids a surgeon in controlling the installation of an acetabular cup prosthesis (11) having a central, female aperture (13). The inserter includes a head (20), a housing (12, 12', 12'') and a locking mechanism (44, 50, 52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 67, 68; 124, 130, 142, 146; 180, 193, 194, 195, 196, 200, 202, 206, 210, 212, 14). The housing (12, 12', 12'') is attached to the head, the housing enclosing a drive train (14, 14', 14'') having, at a far end (134), a prosthesis engaging thread (124), and at the opposite end (42'), a handle (20, 20', 20'') which facilitates turning of the drive train by the operator. The locking mechanism is associated with the housing which selectively locks the drive train, and thus the prosthesis, in position. The opposite end (42') of the drive train has a latch device (52, 54, 56, 60, 62; 44, 50; 180) which enables quick removal from the housing for cleaning and sterilization.

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